

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) Method for detecting disease-associated autoantibodies, which are directed at G protein-coupled receptors,  
characterized in that  
the method comprises the following steps:
  - a) Bringing bodily fluid into contact with a denaturing agent,
  - b) Bringing the precipitated fraction into contact with a peptide, particularly one comprising biotin, which comprises a partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the receptor, whereby a mixture is formed,
  - c) Incubating the mixture with a carrier coated with avidin or streptavidin,
  - d) Washing the materials of the carrier,
  - e) Incubating the carrier with anti-IgG antibody subclasses, whereby the anti-IgG antibody is marked, and
  - f) Carrying out an enzyme reaction or color reaction.
2. (Original) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the denaturing agent is ammonium sulfate and/or alcohol.
3. (Original) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the carrier is a magnetic particle or an ELISA plate.

4. (previously Amended) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the autoantibodies are directed against a beta1-adrenergic receptor, a muscarinic M2 receptor, an angiotensin II AT1 receptor, an alpha1-adrenergic receptor, and an endothelin IA receptor, a PAR-1, PAR-2, and/or PAR-3.
5. (previously Amended) Method of claims 1,  
characterized in that  
the autoantibodies directed against the beta1-adrenergic receptor are associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, or myocarditis; the autoantibodies directed against the muscarinic M2 receptor are associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy and/or Chagas' cardiomyopathy; the autoantibodies directed against the angiotensin II AT1 receptor are associated with preeclampsia, humoral kidney rejection, and/or malignant hypertension; the autoantibodies directed against the alpha1-adrenergic receptor are associated with essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension and/or psoriasis; and/or the autoantibodies directed against endothelin IA receptor, PAR-1, PAR-2 and/or PAR-3 are associated with Raynaud's syndrome.
6. (previously Amended) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the peptide that comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the receptor is used in the detection of dilatative cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, or psoriasis, and that the peptide that comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the receptor is used for Chagas' cardiomyopathy, dilatative cardiomyopathy, humoral kidney rejection, and/or Raynaud's syndrome.
7. (previously Amended) Method of claim 1,

characterized in that

- the autoantibodies associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the beta1-adrenergen receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with Chagas' cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the beta1-adrenergen receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with myocarditis are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the beta1-adrenergen receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the muscarinergen M2 receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with Chagas' cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the muscarinergen M2 receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with preeclampsia are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the angiotensin II AT1 receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with humoral kidney rejection are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the angiotensin II AT1 receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with malignant hypertension are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the angiotensin II AT1 receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with essential hypertension are brought into contact with the

- peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,
- the autoantibodies associated with refractory hypertension are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,
  - the autoantibodies associated with pulmonary hypertension are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,
  - the autoantibodies associated with psoriasis are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,
  - the autoantibodies associated with Raynaud's syndrome are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the endothelin 1A receptor, PAR-1, PAR-2 and/or PAR-3.
8. (previously Amended) Method of claim 1, characterized in that the IgG subclasses are IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses.
9. (previously Amended) Method of claim 1, characterized in that
- in the case of dilatative cardiomyopathy, the IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG1 subclass is used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,
  - in the case of Chagas' cardiomyopathy, the IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are used,
  - in the case of myocarditis, the IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are used if the peptide comprises a

sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG1 subclass is used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,

- in the case of preeclampsia, the IgG3 subclass is used,
- in the case of humoral kidney rejection, the IgG1 and IgG3 subclasses are used,
- in the case of malignant hypertension, the IgG1 and/or IgG3 subclasses are used,
- in the case of essential hypertension, the IgG1 and/or IgG3 subclasses are used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG2 subclass is used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,
- in the case of refractory hypertension, the IgG1 and/or IgG3 subclasses are used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG2 subclass is used if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,
- in the case of pulmonary hypertension, the IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are used,
- in the case of psoriasis, the IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are used, and/or
- in the case of Raynaud's syndrome, the IgG1 subclass is used.

10. (previously Amended) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the autoantibodies are concentrated or purified before being identified.

11. (Previously Amended) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the method for concentrating or purifying the autoantibodies comprises the following steps:

- a) Obtaining an IgG fraction from bodily fluid,
- b) Bringing the IgG fraction that was obtained into contact with a peptide that comprises a partial sequence of a first or second loop of a G protein-coupled receptor, whereby a mixture is obtained,
- c) Incubating the mixture with a carrier that is washed and concentrated, and

- d) Eluting the autoantibodies from the concentrated carrier.
12. (Previously Amended) Method of claim 1, characterized in that the peptide that comprises the sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop is selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECEY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAL, AFHYESQ, ENTNTT, FWAFFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGL, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHDVL.
13. (Previously Amended) Method of claim 1 characterized in that the peptide comprises amino groups, amides, acetyl groups, biotin groups, markers, spacers, linkers, GKK and/or SGKK.
14. (Previously Amended) Method of claim 1, characterized in that the linker and/or the spacer are selected from the group comprising  $\alpha$ -amino carboxylic acids as well as their homo-oligomers and hetero-oligomers;  $\alpha,\omega$ -amino carboxylic acids as well as their branched homo-oligomers and hetero-oligomers; other amino acids as well as the linear and branched homo-oligomers and hetero-oligomers; amino-oligoalkoxy alkyl amines; maleinimido carboxylic acid derivatives; oligomers of alkyl amines; 4-alkylphenyl derivatives; 4-oligoalkoxy phenyl or 4-oligoalkoxy phenoxy derivatives; 4-oligoalkyl mercaptophenyl or 4-oligoalkyl mercaptophenoxy derivatives; 4-oligoalkyl aminophenyl or 4-oligoalkyl aminophenoxy [sic] derivatives; (oligoalkylbenzyl) phenyl or 4-oligoalkylbenzyl phenoxy derivatives as well as 4-oligoalkoxy benzyl phenyl or 4-oligoalkoxybenzyl phenoxy derivatives; trityl derivatives; benzyloxyaryl or benzyloxyalkyl derivatives; xanthen-3-yl oxyalkyl derivatives; (4-alkyl phenyl) or  $\omega$ -(4-alkyl phenoxy) alkanic acid derivatives; oligoalkyl phenoxy alkyl or oligoalkoxy phenoxy alkyl derivatives; carbamate derivatives; amines; trialkyl

silyl or dialkyl alkoxy silyl derivatives; alkyl or aryl derivatives and/or combinations thereof.

15. (Previously Amended) Method of claim 1,  
characterized in that  
the peptide is modified by means of deletion, addition, substitution, translocation, inversion  
and/or insertion.
16. (Original) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND,  
PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAL, AFHYESQ,  
ENTNIT, FWA FGR, GRA FCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHDVL, for use  
as a medicinal active substance.
17. (Previously Amended) Peptide of claim 16,  
characterized in that  
the peptide is bound by autoantibodies of patients having one of the following diseases:  
dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, humoral  
kidney rejection, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension,  
pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis and/or Raynaud's syndrome.
18. (Previously Amended) Peptide of claim 16,  
characterized in that  
the peptide is immobilized.
19. (Previously Amended) Peptide of claim 16,  
characterized in that  
the peptide the peptide is bound to a solid phase.
20. (Previously Amended) Recognition molecule directed against the peptide of claim 16.

21. (Currently Amended) Recognition molecule of claim ~~16~~20, characterized in that it is an antibody, a lectin, an antisense construct, and/or a chelator.
22. (Previously Amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWA FGR, GRA FCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGL, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD and/or a recognition molecule directed against the peptide.
23. (Previously Amended) Kit comprising a peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWA FGR, GRA FCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGL, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD, a recognition molecule directed against the peptide, and/or a pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide and/or the recognition molecule, if applicable with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation.



24. (Previously Amended) Chromatography device comprising peptides selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWA FGR, GRA FCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD and/or recognition molecules directed against the peptide.
25. (Previously Amended) Device of claim 24, characterized in that the peptides are bound to the solid phase.
- 26- 29 (canceled)
30. (Previously Amended) Method for treating an autoimmune disease, selected from the group comprising dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, humoral kidney rejection, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis, Raynaud's syndrome, by means of binding and/or removing antibodies by means of peptides selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWA FGR, GRA FCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD, bound to a solid phase.
31. (Previously Amended) Method of claim 30, characterized in that the autoantibodies are directed against beta1-adrenergic receptors in the case of dilatative cardiomyopathy, against beta1-adrenergic receptors in the case of Chagas' cardiomyopathy, against beta1-adrenergic receptors in the case of myocarditis, against muscarinergic M2 receptors in the case of dilatative cardiomyopathy, against muscarinergic M2 receptors in the case of Chagas' cardiomyopathy, against angiotensin II AT1 receptors in the case of preeclampsia, against angiotensin II AT1 receptors in the case of humoral kidney rejection,

against angiotensin II AT1 receptors in the case of malignant hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of essential hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of refractory hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of pulmonary hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of psoriasis, and that the autoantibodies are directed against endothelin 1A, PAR-1 PAR-2 and/or PAR-3 in the case of Raynaud's syndrome.

32. (new) Method for the prophylaxis, diagnosis, therapy, monitoring the progression as well as follow-up treatment of autoimmune diseases selected from the group comprising dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, humoral kidney rejection, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis and Raynaud's syndrome, comprising the step of using one or more chosen from the following (a) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAL, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGL, GRIFCD and ITTCHDVL (b) a recognition molecule directed against said peptide (c) a pharmaceutical composition comprising said peptide and said recognition molecule (d) a kit comprising one of said peptide, said recognition molecule or said pharmaceutical composition, optionally with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation and (e) a chromatography device comprising said peptide or said recognition molecule..
33. (new) Method for the production of a medication for the treatment of autoimmune diseases selected from the group comprising dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, humoral kidney rejection, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis and/or Raynaud's syndrome, comprising the step of using one or more chosen from the following (a) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGE CY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAL, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT,

FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and ITTCHDVL (b) a recognition molecule directed against said peptide (c) a pharmaceutical composition comprising said peptide and said recognition molecule (d) a kit comprising one of said peptide, said recognition molecule or said pharmaceutical composition, optionally with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation and (e) a chromatography device comprising said peptide or said recognition molecule.

34. (new) Method for screening medications, comprising the step of one or more chosen from the following (a) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGEY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAL, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and ITTCHDVL (b) a recognition molecule directed against said peptide (c) a pharmaceutical composition comprising said peptide and said recognition molecule (d) a kit comprising one of said peptide, said recognition molecule or said pharmaceutical composition, optionally with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation and (e) a chromatography device comprising said peptide or said recognition molecule.
35. (new) Method for detecting, binding, complexing or neutralizing of autoantibodies, directed against beta 1-adrenergic receptor, muscarinic M2 receptor, angiotensin II AT1 receptor, alpha 1-adrenergic receptor, endothelin A receptor, PAR-1, PAR-2, and/or PAR-3, comprising the step of using a peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGEDY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAL, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD, and ITTCHDVL.